

Law Student Opportunities

Civil Law Division

Health Quality Enforcement Section

Los Angeles



The Health Quality Enforcement (HQE) Section is primarily responsible for prosecuting disciplinary proceedings against physicians, psychologists, doctors of podiatric medicine, acupuncturists, physical therapists, and other health care licensees and applicants. The HQE Section, which is a section in the Civil Division of the Office of the Attorney General, has offices located in Los Angeles, Oakland, San Francisco, Sacramento, San Diego and Fresno.

The HQE Section was created in 1991 by the Legislature to represent and assist the Medical Board of California, Acupuncture Board, Board of Podiatric Medicine, Board of Psychology, Hearing Aid Dispensers Bureau, Physician Assistant Committee, Physical Therapy Board, Respiratory Care Board, and other boards and committees in the intake and investigation of consumer complaints, medical malpractice settlements and judgments, and other matters that could constitute unprofessional conduct. Unprofessional conduct includes gross negligence, incompetence, sexual misconduct, insurance fraud, certain criminal convictions, alcohol and substance abuse, and other activities that adversely affect the public health, safety, and welfare. The HQE Section is involved in handling all phases of administrative litigation, including the prosecution of disciplinary proceedings and seeking interim suspensions or other injunctive relief when emergency relief is necessary to prevent imminent harm to the public. The section also handles the enforcement of subpoenas, writs and appeals, civil matters or lawsuits filed against our client agencies or their staff, and other types of civil litigation in state and federal courts. Many of the cases are highly publicized, sensitive and complex.

The HQE Section consists of over 40 attorneys, three legal analysts, and legal support staffs throughout the state. By statute, the HQE Section is required to be staffed with adequate numbers of experienced and able employees that are capable of handling the most complex and varied types of disciplinary actions against persons who are licensed by the Medical Board and other client agencies. The section also has law students who volunteer throughout the year to complete internships or externships that provide them with a broad range of practical training and experience.

How to Apply:

The HQE Section provides interesting and challenging opportunities for persons interested in improving the quality of health care and protecting the people of California. Those interested in applying for the unpaid Law Student Program at the Los Angeles office should send a resume and writing sample to:

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